

## Causes and extent of delay of TB diagnosis in Ardabil province in 1388-1389

### Abstract:

#### Background

Tuberculosis is one of the oldest known disease ,is a major cause of death world wide.This disease which is caused by bacteria of the mycobacterium tuberculosis complex ,usually affects the lungs .Transmission usually takes place through the airborne spread of droplet nuclei produced by patients with infectious pulmonary tuberculosis.According to the role of disease carriers as contamination source decreasing the transmission period directly decreases the incidence of the disease .This study designed to evaluate the delay between onset of disease symptoms and start of treatment .

#### Method

126 TB cases enrolled to this cross sectional study.All cases referred to TB committee of Ardabil province .The survey carried out By asking the patients to fill the designed inquires the mean days of delay from symptom to referral (patient's delay ) and from referral to diagnosis (physician's delay ) were calculated .The relation between patient's delay ,physician's delay and patient's demographics (sex , marital situation ,level of education , location and familial history of TB ) were analyzed using SPSS software and student t- test .  $p < 0/05$  was considered significant.

#### Result

From 126 cases , 66 were male and 60 were female .the mean age of patients was 49/93 (2-88) years . the mean days of patient's delay was 71/17 (SD= 261/055) with the median of 20 days . the mean days of physician's delay was 35/45 (SD= 70/863 , median =14 days ) the mean days of total delay was 106/33 (SD=285/49 , median =43 )

#### Conclusion

Patient's delay was more than physician's delay there was no significant relationship between patient's demographics (sex , marital situation ,level of education , location and familial history of TB ) and the mean days of patient's delay as well as days of physician's delay

keyword: TB-delay-diagnosis –treatment